

Appendices

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I. Review of Commission Activities

The Maine Millennium Commission on Hunger and Food Security has met monthly since it began in December 1999. The Commission heard from many people, including providers of services that address hunger and those in need of assistance. Hearings were held around the State in the spring of 2000 and written comments were solicited. Several citizen groups reviewed the draft report and offered suggestions. Members reviewed the work of other states, the USDA and other agencies and organizations. They sought models from elsewhere that were successful in addressing the needs that had been presented to them. The Commission issued an interim report in January 2001 and proposed accompanying legislation. They then proceeded to address other concerns and refine the many suggestions with which they had been presented. The final report of the Commission contains nine legislative proposals and a lengthy list of other approaches that may also require future legislation. Most notable, the Commission has focused on the need for a shift in public policy and a greater need for consistency of policies that impact both directly and indirectly on the status of hunger.

II. Draft Proposed Legislation

Proposed Legislation for Submission in 2003:

1. Resolve, to End Hunger in Maine.
2. An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Maine Millennium Commission on Hunger and Food Security to Create a Maine Office of Food Security.
3. Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Maine Millennium Commission on Hunger and Food Security to Expand the Maine Earned Income Tax Credit Program to Make It Refundable and Increase the Amount of Benefit a Family Can Receive.
4. Resolve, to Study the Impact of Taxes, Fees, and Other Assessments on Low Income Residents and to Recommend Changes in Maine's Tax System to Ensure that Low Income Households do not Pay a Disproportional Share.

5. An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Maine Millennium Commission on Hunger and Food Security to Amend the Responsible Employer Statute to Close Loopholes and to Increase Opportunity for Small Businesses in Maine.
6. An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Maine Millennium Commission on Hunger and Food Security and to Expand the Senior Farm Share Program to Other Low Income and Moderate Income Households.
7. Resolve, to Make it the Policy of the State of Maine to Provide School Nutrition Services Universally in all Maine Schools in Order to Eliminate the Stigma Suffered by Children Under the Current Fee System and to Direct the Maine Department of Education to Prepare a Plan and Timeline for Implementation of a Universal Nutrition Program in all Maine Schools.
8. Resolve, to Direct the Department of Education to immediately institute a "Free Cart" of healthy foods in Maine Schools.
9. Resolve, to Instruct the Department of Education to Develop and Propose Amendments to the Learning Results Curriculum that Incorporate Information on Nutrition and Food Production and its Relationship to Good Health and to Ensure that the Meals Programs are an Integral Part of the School Day.

Rough draft language for these nine proposals is found on the following pages.

Resolve, To End Hunger in Maine.

Preamble. **Whereas**, one in ten people in Maine are persistently hungry or at risk of being hungry for periods of time each year; and

Whereas, the presence of hunger in Maine is unacceptable and the persistence of hunger threatens and diminishes the quality of life of all Maine citizens; and

Whereas, The Maine Millennium Commission on Hunger and Food Security finds that hunger is much more than a social problem; and

Whereas, hunger is both a causal factor for and a result of many of the larger problems in society such as the burgeoning costs of health care, lost productivity, loss of farms and farmland and an ailing rural economy, and poor educational achievement and that these conditions, in turn, perpetuate hunger by reducing the availability of local food, reducing the potential of earning an adequate income to purchase sufficient food, and by increasing other costs, such as the cost of health care, that further erode the amount of income available for food; and

Whereas, ending hunger requires that this State address hunger comprehensively, re-examine its policies and their implications for ending hunger, and begin to develop policies in which ending hunger is the keystone:

Ending hunger should be a keystone in our health policy - the link between nutrition and health is well established.

Ending hunger should be a keystone in our education policy - the link between nutrition and learning is well established and therefore, school nutrition programs should be considered as public health intervention as well as fundamental to learning.

Ending hunger should be a keystone in our agricultural policy - the link between lower income at risk consumers and our food producers is essential to expanding local food consumption and to improving diets.

Ending hunger should be a keystone in our economic policy - the link between nutrition and worker productivity is well established.

Ending hunger should be a keystone in our taxation policy – for the tax structure affects the amount of disposable income available to households and the economic vitality of our businesses to offer improved wages and benefits for workers.

Ending hunger should be a keystone in our environmental and land use policies
- for Maine has the capacity to supply a substantial portion of the food for local consumption and a vital farm economy requires an adequate supply of farmland, infrastructure, direct producer to consumer markets, and improved consumer access to local food.

Ending hunger should be a keystone in our transportation policies - for our road systems and public transportation services are essential to steady and reliable employment, access to food, and to ensure freedom from dependency, isolation, and deprivation.

Ending hunger should be a keystone in our energy and housing policies - for it is the ability to afford these basic needs that all too often causes lower income households to make choices between heat or rent and nutritious food;

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved. We the members of the 120th Maine Legislature declare our commitment to the end of persistent hunger in Maine once and for all, and further declare that the existence of hunger be made central to the policy debates and decisions of all state agencies and legislatures, and that future legislation, governmental policies, and public actions lead to an end of hunger in Maine.

SUMMARY

This resolve declares the commitment of the Legislature and the State of Maine to the end of persistent hunger in Maine once and for all, recognizes hunger is much more than a social problem and must be addressed comprehensively, and directs all departments and agencies of state government as well as future legislatures to ensure that all future legislation, governmental policies, and public actions lead to an end of hunger in Maine.

An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Maine Millennium Commission on Hunger and Food Security to Create a Maine Office of Food Security.

Be it enacted by the People of Maine as follows:

Whereas, the Maine Millennium Commission on Hunger and Food Security has found that hunger exists in Maine and that it is the result of a complex network of interrelated issues and policies in which hunger is a causal factor for many of the larger problems in society such as the burgeoning costs of health care, lost productivity, loss of farms and farmland and an ailing rural economy, and poor educational achievement; and

Whereas, these conditions, in turn, perpetuate hunger by reducing the availability of local food, reducing the potential of earning an adequate income to purchase sufficient food, and by increasing other costs, such as the cost of health care, that further erode the amount of income available for food; and

Whereas, the Maine Millennium Commission on Hunger and Food Security has found that the approach to Food Security in State Government lacks the cohesive implementation of nutrition education and food programs in each department causing fragmentation of services, duplication of services, and a general lack of comprehensive evaluation statewide. Ending hunger requires that this State address hunger comprehensively, re-examine its policies and their implications for ending hunger, and begin to develop, implement and evaluate policies in which ending hunger is the keystone.

Title/Sec. ____ is amended to read:

MAINE OFFICE OF FOOD SECURITY .

1. Office Established. The Maine Office of Food Security is established in order to facilitate more effective interagency coordination of the State's activities regarding hunger in Maine,

2. State Agency Coordination. An interdepartmental committee made up of State agencies and departments whose activities and policies impact hunger and food security shall oversee the Maine Office of Food Security and coordinate their programs and activities. The membership of the committee is as follows:

- A. The Director of the State Planning Office;
- B. The Commissioner of the Maine Department of Agriculture and Rural Resources;
- C. The Commissioner of the Department of Human Services;
- D. The Commissioner of the Department of Education;
- E. The Commissioner of the Department of Transportation;
- F. The Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development;
- G. The Commissioner of the Department of Labor;
- H. The Director of the Maine Emergency Management Agency; and
- I. Other state agencies and departments may participate as applicable.

3. Maine Office of Food Security to be located in the State Planning Office.

4. Purpose and Duties. Direct the interagency coordination of all activities to end hunger and achieve food security in Maine. The Office shall advise the Governor, the Legislature, and state agencies in the formation of policies to end hunger. Any state, federal, regional, or local agency or private organization may interact and cooperative with the office in fulfilling its goals.

Specifically, the Office shall:

1. Provide the leadership for ending the persistence of hunger in our state by being charged with being the shepherd or steward of the commitment for having Maine be a hunger-free state;
2. Recommend coordinated state policy regarding major programs and proposals that affect hunger and that involve the concerns and activities of more than one state agency;
3. Support the design and implementation of an integrated program to end hunger in Maine;
4. Provide direction to the State's agencies and Departments and encourage coordination and review of these efforts through review and comment on agency programs and plans that relate to ending hunger;
5. Coordinate with other state, federal, local, and non-profit initiatives that address hunger, food security, nutrition, and related concerns;
6. Study specific issues and problems of state level significance in order to develop sound and coordinated policies;
7. Establish benchmarks for the implementation of the long-range recommendations contained in the report of the Maine Millennium Commission on Hunger and Food Security, including defining the measures to be used to define the end of hunger;
8. Establish and utilize advisory councils around the state of Maine's citizens, especially the hungry themselves, so there is a real interaction and feedback mechanism in place that helps shape policy and other decisions that impact people's lives;
9. Work with those involved providing services to those in need to ensure a seamless system is in place at all times and access to it is clear and simple; and
10. Periodically review and evaluate the progress being made towards ending hunger in Maine and report biennially to the Legislature and the Governor.

5. Hire Staff.

6. Establish citizen councils and advisory groups.

7. Accept funds. The Office may seek and accept funds to carry out its work.

8. Funding and Support. May be supported in part by resources of the agencies and departments listed, appropriations by the legislature, and public and private sources.

(Note: No Appropriation requested for first year. It is anticipated that the Office will seek USDA funds to begin its work once established.)

SUMMARY

This resolve establishes a Maine Office of Food Security located at the State Planning Office, directs state agencies to participate by overseeing the Office and coordinating their policies and programs, and provides for advisory councils and citizen input.

#3

An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Maine Millennium Commission on Hunger and Food Security to Expand the Maine Earned Income Tax Credit Program to Make It Refundable and Increase the Amount of Benefit a Family Can Receive.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 36 MRSA §5219-S, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 731, Pt. V, §1 and affected by §2, is amended to read:

§5219-S. Earned income credit

A taxpayer is ~~allowed~~ eligible for a refundable credit against the taxes otherwise due under this Part equal to ~~5%~~ 15% of the federal earned income credit for the ~~same~~ taxable year beginning January 1, 2002 and equal to 20% in 2003 and equal to 25% of the federal earned income tax credit for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2004. ~~The credit may not reduce the state income tax to less than zero.~~

SUMMARY

The State does not currently offer a refundable earned income tax credit to lower-income families with earnings. A nonrefundable credit against taxes owed was enacted in the Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature. The maximum amount of credit a family could receive is less than \$200.

This proposal makes the credit refundable, similar to the federal, earned income tax credit, and increases the amount of refund a family can receive from 5% of the federal rate to 15% in 2002, 20% in 2003 and 25% in 2004 and thereafter.

Resolve to Study the Impact of Taxes, Fees, and Other Assessments on Low Income Residents and to Recommend Changes in Maine's Tax System to Ensure that Low Income Households do not Pay a Disproportional Share.

Preamble. Whereas, the Maine Millennium Commission on Hunger and Food Security finds that lack of adequate income is a primary factor contributing to hunger in Maine and that the high amount of taxes paid by Maine residents in proportion to income further reduces the disposable income of lower income households in the State; and

Whereas, one out of every ten Maine residents is experiencing hunger or is at risk of hunger and countless more worry about having enough money to make ends meet without compromising nutrition; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Study of the Impact of Taxes, Fees and Other Assessments on Maine's Low Income Residents.

Resolved: That the State Planning Office shall study of the impact of taxes, fees and other assessments on the poor and submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation that:

1. Inventories existing taxes, fees, and assessments mandated by state statute and analyzes the burden they create at varying income levels, including, but not limited to income taxes, consumer sales, special taxes assessed on gasoline, utilities, licenses, registrations,
2. Identifies those taxes and assessments most burdensome to low income households, and
3. Recommends strategies for reducing that burden.

Coordination. The Office may seek the assistance of the Maine Revenue Services Division of the Maine Department of Administration and Financial Services, and of all other state departments and agencies that levy fees or cause fees to be levied on goods and services within the State,

Report. The State Planning Office shall present a report to the joint standing committee on Taxation by December 31, 2002.

SUMMARY

This resolve directs the State Planning Office to inventory and study the impact of taxes, fees, and other assessments on the poor and to recommend changes in Maine's tax and fee systems to ensure that low income households do not pay a disproportional share and to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation by December 31, 2002. It further directs other state agencies to cooperate and to provide information on taxes, fees, and assessments in their jurisdiction as needed upon request of the State Planning Office for the purpose of the study.

#5

**An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Maine Millennium Commission on
Hunger and Food Security to Amend the Responsible Employer Statute to Close Loopholes
and to Increase Opportunity for Small Businesses in Maine.**

Be it enacted by the People of Maine as follows:

Title 26, Chapter 15 is amended as follows:

Sec. 1301. Local Residents preferred; exception

The State, counties, cities and towns, and every charitable or educational institution which is supported in whole or in part by aid granted by the State or by any municipality shall, in the awarding of contracts for constructing, altering, repairing, furnishing or equipping its buildings or public works, give preference to workmen and to bidders for such contracts who are residents of this State, provided the bids submitted by such resident bidders are equally favorable with bids submitted by contractors from without the State. This section shall not apply to construction or repairs amounting to less than \$1,000 or to emergency work or to state road work.

Any contract for public improvement that is awarded by the State or any department or agency of the State is subject to the competitive bidding process established under Title 5, chapter 155, subchapter I-A. [1995, c. 524, §2 (new).] and

Every contract awarded by the State where the amount of the contract is more than one-hundred thousand dollars, and any subcontract awarded in connection with any such general contract where the amount of such subcontract is more than twenty-five thousand dollars, shall be deemed to incorporated by reference the following provisions:

1. The bidder and all subcontractors under the bidder shall comply with the requirements concerning the payment of prevailing wages to their employees;
2. The bidder and all subcontractors under the bidder must maintain and participate in a bonafide apprentice training program as defined by Maine law for each apprenticeable trade or occupation represented in its workforce that is approved by the Division of Apprenticeship Training of the Maine Department of Labor and must abide by the apprentice to journeymen ratio for each trade prescribed therein in the performance of the contract;
3. The bidder and all subcontractors under the bidder must offer hospitalization and medical benefits for all individuals employed on the project or coverage which is comparable to the hospitalization and medical benefits provided by the health and welfare plans in the applicable craft; and
4. The bidder and all subcontractors under the bidder must properly classify individuals employed on the project as employees rather than as independent contractors and comply with all laws concerning workers' compensation insurance coverage, unemployment taxes, social security taxes and income taxes as respects all such employees.

SUMMARY

This act closes a loophole that allowed bidders to hire contract labor and thus avoid withholding taxes and paying benefits.

#6

An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Maine Millennium Commission on Hunger and Food Security and to Expand the Senior Farm Share Program to Other Low Income and Moderate Income Households.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 7 MRSA c. 101, sub-c. II-B is amended by repealing the subchapter head note and enacting the following in its place:

SUBCHAPTER II-B

MAINE FARM SHARE PROGRAM

Sec. 2. 7 MRSA §472 is enacted to read:

Maine FarmShare Program. The Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources shall develop the Maine Farm Share Program (hereafter the “Program”) which will provide eligible low and moderate income households with free farm products provided directly by Maine farms.

The Program will be administered by the Maine Department of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Resources (hereafter, the “Department”).

Purpose. In order to increase the consumption of locally grown nutritious foods and strengthen Maine’s small and mid sized farms, the Department shall develop and administer the Maine Farm Share Program. Under the Program, participating farmers will provide a certain value of free farm products directly to eligible households through means authorized by the Department.

Coordination with other Programs. The Maine Farm Share Program builds upon and expands the federally funded Senior Share Program begun in 2001, currently administered by the Department. The Senior Share Program will become one component of this Program, with the Department coordinating the federal funds for the Senior Farm Share Program with the broader State funded Program so that the two components are administered in conjunction with each other in such as way that the system, to the customers, is seamless.

Accept funds. The Department may also seek and accept funds from other sources for the purpose of this section.

Value of Shares. The value of farm product provided to each eligible households each year shall be set by the Department at the start of each growing season, based on the amount of available funding and legal requirements. The value may be different for households eligible for the Senior Share program and other eligible households, depending on the amount of funding available from different sources, and on any federal requirements for the use of Senior Share funding.

The target value of farm products to be provided to each household is \$100 per year, which is the current amount provided under the Senior Share program. In no year may this amount fall below \$50 per household. If the amount of available funding is such that the value would fall below \$50 per household per year, then the Department must either carry over funding to reallocate it in a future year or decrease the pool of recipients by providing benefits to only a subset of all those who are eligible. If the Department chooses to decrease the pool of recipients, it must do so in a fair and equitable manner.

Farm Participation. The Department shall establish guidelines for participation of farms in the program.

Reimbursement to Farms. The Department shall establish procedures for reimbursement of farms in the program.

Determination of Eligibility of Recipients. The Department may request the assistance of the Department of Human Services or another appropriate entity to determine the eligibility of client households and to assist with outreach activities as appropriate.

Eligibility Guidelines and Phase-in Period. Eligibility for the Senior Share portion of the overall Program shall be based on federal requirements. Broader Program eligibility shall be based on how the household's income compares with the federal poverty line, as outlined below.

The Program would be phased in over a five-year period. In year 1 (2002), shares would be provided exclusively to those households eligible for support under the Federally-funded Senior Share Program. In year 2, Program eligibility would be expanded to also include all households that fall under the poverty line. In year 4, Program eligibility would be expanded to include all households that fall below 130% of the poverty line, which is the same level at which free meals are provided under the school lunch program.

Administrative Costs. No more than 15% of the funds available for this program may be used to cover the administrative costs of the program.

SUMMARY

This bill would establish the Maine Farm Share Program to provide eligible low and moderate income households with free farm products provided directly by Maine farms. It builds upon and expands the Federally-funded Senior Farm Share Program. It would be phased in over five years to eventually support a large number of low and moderate income households.

#7

Resolve, to Make it the Policy of the State of Maine to Provide School Nutrition Services Universally in all Maine Schools in Order to Eliminate the Stigma Suffered by Children Under the Current Fee System and to Direct the Maine Department of Education to Prepare a Plan and Timeline for Implementation of a Universal Nutrition Program in all Maine Schools.

Preamble. Whereas, the Maine Millennium Commission on Hunger and Food Security has found that children of all ages and from families at all income levels are going hungry at school; and

Whereas, the Commission has found the level of participation in school meals programs in Maine to be inadequate among children who qualify for free and reduced fee meals largely due to stigma and embarrassment; and

Whereas, hunger among children has been demonstrated conclusively by scientific research to impede learning, growth and development, and general health and well being of children; and

Whereas, schools offer an opportunity at an early age to educate about and to instill knowledge of healthy eating and develop lifelong behavior and practice of good nutrition; and

Whereas, it is imperative to the health and educational development of our children to provide a universal system of school meals available to every child; now therefore, be it

Sec. 1 . Plan for developing a universal school meals program. Resolved. That the Maine Department of Education shall develop a plan for a universal school meals free of charge in every school in Maine and shall establish a timeline for implementing such a plan. In so doing, the Department shall review the options for developing universal programs and experiences in other states, identify mechanisms for long term funding, identify statutory or regulatory changes needed, and consider other relevant information.

Report. The Department shall report the findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Education by January 15, 2003.

SUMMARY

This resolve makes it the policy of the State of Maine to provide school Nutrition Services universally and free of charge in all Maine schools in order to eliminate the stigma suffered by children under the current fee system and directs the Maine Department of Education to prepare a plan and timeline for implementation of a Universal Nutrition Program in all Maine schools.

#8

Resolve, to Direct the Department of Education to immediately institute a "Free Cart" of healthy foods in Maine Schools.

Preamble. **Whereas**, the Maine Millennium Commission on Hunger and Food Security has found that children of all ages and from families at all income levels are going hungry at school; and

Whereas, the Commission has found the level of participation in school meals programs in Maine to be inadequate among children who qualify for free and reduced fee meals largely due to stigma and embarrassment; and

Whereas, hunger among children has been demonstrated conclusively by scientific research to impede learning, growth and development, and general health and well being of children; and

Whereas, schools offer an opportunity at an early age to educate about and to instill knowledge of healthy eating and develop lifelong behavior and practice of good nutrition; and

Whereas, it is imperative to the health and educational development of our children to provide a universal system of school meals available to every child; and

Whereas, many Maine schools already offer such a service on days when MEA tests are being administered and a few offer the service on a regular basis to some classrooms; and

Whereas, the shift from the current school meals system to a universal system can be expected to take several years to complete; now, therefore, be it

Sec 1. Institute "Free Carts" in Maine schools. Resolved: The Maine Department of Education shall assist Maine schools not already having such to make available to children a "free cart" of healthy foods.

In so doing, the Department should coordinate with the Maine Department of Agriculture, the USDA and other potential sources to develop access to sources of foods, make special effort to use as many Maine grown foods as possible, seek funding and other needed resources as necessary.

SUMMARY

This resolve directs the Maine Department of Education to assist local schools to offer a "free cart" of healthy foods to their students daily.

#9

Resolve, to Instruct the Department of Education to Develop and Propose Amendments to the Learning Results Curriculum that Incorporate Information on Nutrition and Food Production and its Relationship to Good Health and to Ensure that the Meals Programs are an Integral Part of the School Day.

Preamble. Whereas, the United States Department of Agriculture has recently released data (December 2001) which clearly points to the need of school nutrition programs to have a leadership role in promoting a healthy lifestyle; and

Whereas, the Millennium Commission on Hunger and Food Security has found that the two greatest barriers to enabling school nutrition programs to meet the nutritional needs of children are (1) the funding structure, which places its dependence on federal dollars, and in which minimal importance is assigned to the meals programs in school budgets, and (2) the separation of nutrition programs from the classroom and learning environment; and

Whereas, the Commission believes that mealtime should be a rich learning experience promoting healthy lifestyles as well as a nourishing experience and that the school nutrition program should be an integral part of the school day which is linked to the learning results curriculum; and

Whereas, the Commission finds it is essential that the fiscal process supports the development of fresh, healthy, desirable menus, and strategies for effectively educating children to eat foods necessary for optimum health in each school districts throughout the State; now therefore, be it

Resolved. The Department of Education, is directed, in their scheduled review of Learning Results Curriculum next year, to develop and propose amendments to the Learning Results Curriculum that incorporate information on nutrition and food production and its relationship to good health; and be it further

Resolved. The Department of Education develop and propose an alternative budgeting system, such as possibly a dedicated account, that makes school meals programs a sound investment for local schools.

In so doing, the Department shall develop fiscal processes that

1. assures that mealtimes are treated as an essential part of each student's day;
2. assures enough time for each child to eat a nourishing breakfast and lunch;
3. prioritizes the consistent use of fresh, healthy food for each child in Maine schools; and
4. integrates nutrition and classroom learning.

SUMMARY

Under current conditions, not only are the school nutrition programs separated from educational experiences, in most schools, the budget for school nutrition is separate from the overall school budget. As a result, those responsible for the meals must operate in such a way that the School Nutrition Program pays for itself, often forcing less healthy snack foods in order to increase the number of children to purchasing meals. In such an environment, pressure to make ends meet consumes energy and dedication of the nutrition staff.

The separation of school nutrition programs and the education program in schools places low priority on eating nutritiously, often does not allow children enough time to eat, which results consumption of snack foods as alternative to a meal, and overall poor food choices.

This resolve directs the Department of Education to examine the role of nutrition and school nutrition programs in the school day and, in their scheduled review of Learning Results Curriculum next year, to develop and

propose amendments to the Learning Results Curriculum that incorporate information on nutrition and food production and its relationship to good health. It further directs the Department to develop and propose an alternative budgeting system, such as possibly a dedicated account, that makes school meals programs a sound investment for local schools.

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LAWS OF MAINE
Second Special Session of the 118th

Resolves

CHAPTER 117

S.P. 542 - L.D. 1661

**Resolve, to Implement the Recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission
on Hunger and Food Security**

Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved: That the Maine Millennium Commission on Hunger and Food Security, referred to in this section as the "commission," is established.

1. Members. The commission consists of 15 members appointed in September 1999 as follows: one Senator from the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters, appointed by the President of the Senate; 3 Representatives from the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; one representative of the Department of Human Services, appointed by the Commissioner of Human Services; and 10 representatives of the general public, including representatives of business, labor, religion, private nonprofit charitable organizations, low-income organizations and agriculture and anti hunger organizations, 4 of whom are appointed by the Governor, 3 by the President of the Senate and 3 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

2. Organizational meeting. The commission shall hold an organizational meeting, called by the Chair of the Legislative Council, by December 1, 1999 and shall elect from among the members a chair and a vice-chair for the commission.

3. Duties. The commission shall hold hearings on hunger and food security, which, for the purposes of this section, means access through normal channels to nutrition sufficient for daily life and work, and develop a plan for relieving hunger and ensuring food security for people in the State. The commission shall inquire into the experience of hunger in this State and investigate changes in policies and programs that will enable all citizens of this State to attain food security and to move toward self-reliance. This inquiry must include, but is not limited to, consideration of the reform of public welfare and the role of public and private efforts in achieving food security. The commission shall evaluate the progress of recommendations made by the Blue Ribbon Commission on Hunger and Food Security.

4. Staff assistance. The Department of Human Services and the Executive Department, State Planning Office shall provide research, clerical and computer assistance to the commission.

5. Reimbursement; mileage. The members of the commission who are Legislators are entitled to receive the legislative per diem as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 2 and reimbursement for travel and other necessary expenses for attendance at meetings of the commission upon application to the Executive Director of the Legislative Council for those expenses. Other members of the commission are not entitled to reimbursement for expenses.

6. Report. The commission shall submit a report, together with any necessary implementing legislation, to the First Regular Session of the 120th Legislature by December 15, 2001.

7. Funding. The commission may seek outside sources of funding.

Effective July 9, 1998, unless otherwise indicated.

LAWS OF MAINE
First Regular Session of the 120th

Resolves

CHAPTER 63

H.P. 777 - L.D. 1021

**Resolve, Extending the Reporting Deadline for the Maine Millennium
Commission on Hunger and Food Security**

Sec. 1. Resolve 1997, c. 117, §1, sub-§6, amended. Resolved: That Resolve 1997, c. 117, §1, sub-§6, as amended by PL 1999, c. 127, Pt. D, §7, is further amended to read:

6. Report. The commission shall submit ~~a~~ an interim report, together with any necessary implementing legislation, to the First Regular Session of the 120th Legislature by December 15, 2000 and a final report, together with any necessary legislation, to the Second Regular Session of the 120th Legislature by December 5, 2001.

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